

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 03668 051444Z

53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10

ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 /076 W

----- 028262

R 050854Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1299

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3668

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US

SUBJECT: THAI DEFENSE MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON U.S. MILITARY  
PRESENENCE

THAI DEFENSE MINISTER THAWIT SENIWONG NA AYUTTHAYA TALKED WITH THE  
PRESS MARCH 3. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS  
OFF-THE-RECORD COMMENTS. THEY ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION. THEY IN-  
DICATE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE 18-MONTH DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL  
OF U.S. FORCES. THAWIT'S REASONING IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD  
MAKE A DECISION ON THE PRESENCE OF OFOREIGN MILITARY FORCES IN  
THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY BUT THAT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT COULD  
THEN SUBMIT A MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE.

2. THE TEXT FOLLOWS:

REPORTER: HAS THIS 18-MONTH TIME LIMIT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE  
SITUATION OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY ALSO?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 03668 051444Z

THAWIT: DO NOT BECOME ALARMED. I AM A SOLDIER. I HAVE GIVEN IN TO THE MAJORITY VIEW OF MEMBERS OF THE CABINET BECAUSE I HAVE A WAY OUT. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? IT IS NECESSARY TO TURN BACK TO THE PAST AND SPEAK OF A LAW OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN, BUT PLEASE DON'T MENTION HIS NAME BECAUSE HE AND I DON'T GET ALONG VERY WELL AT PRESENT. (LAUGHTER) DURING STUDY OF SECTION 185 OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, HE PROPOSED TWO IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS. THEY WERE: IF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES WILL COME AND BE STATIONED IN THAILAND, AND IF THAI TROOPS ARE SENT TO FIGHT OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY, THAT APPROVAL MUST BE OBTAINED FROM PARLIAMENT FIRST. BUT AFTER A DEBATE ON THE AMENDMENTS WAS HELD IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, THE AMENDMENTS WERE REJECTED. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THAT NO SUCH SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE FOUND IN THE CONSTITUTION WHICH IS IN FORCE NOW. THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES CAN COME AND BE STATIONED IN THAILAND AND WHETHER THAI TROOPS SHOULD BE SENT TO FIGHT OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY.

REPORTER: WHAT IS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 195?

THAWIT: THERE IS ONLY ONE SPECIFICATION OF IMPORTANCE IN IT FOR WHICH APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENT MUST BE OBTAINED FIRST, AND IT IS THE SIGNING OF A MILITARY ALLIANCE TREATY. BUT ALLOWING FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES TO COME AND BE STATIONED HERE, OR SENDING THAI TROOPS TO GO AND FIGHT OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY, DOES NOT HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL. THEREFORE, SHOULD THE NECESSITY ARISE, WE COULD TAKE ACTION ON OUR OWN INITIATIVE. I REQUEST ALL OF YOU TO CONSIDER THESE STATEMENTS I AM MAKING AS BEING "OFF THE RECORD" AND NOT TO MENTION THEM IN THE NEWS REPORTS YOU WRITE.

REPORTER: ON WHAT SUBJECT?

THAWIT: CONCERNING BRINGING MILITARY FORCES INTO OUR COUNTRY, OR THE SENDING OF TROOPS TO GO AND FIGHT OUTSIDE IT. I REQUEST YOU PLEASE NOT TO WRITE UP STATEMENTS ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS I HAVE MADE. I FELT THAT YOU ARE WORRIED AND FEEL CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY, AND THIS IS WHY I HAVE TOLD YOU NOT TO BECOME ALARMED BECAUSE WE HAVE A WAY OUT, AND THAT IS THROUGH THE CONSTITUTION SO I BEG YOU PLEASE NOT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 03668 051444Z

TO WRITE UP IN YOUR NEWS REPORTS THAT WE HAVE A WAY OUT AND WHAT THAT WAY OUT IS, BECAUSE SHOULD YOU WRITE UP AND PUBLISH THESE STATEMENTS I AM MAKING, THEIR PUBLICATION WOULD CREATE WIDE REPERCUSSIONS, AND I WOULD BECOME THE TARGET OF ATTACK BY HANOI, BY RED CHINA, BY THE PRIME MINISTER, BY MY BELLOW COLLEAGUES, AND BY ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. I FEEL NO WORRY IN REGARD TO THE PULLING OUT OF MILITARY FORCES BECAUSE THERE IS A WAY FOR US TO TAKE ACTION, AND THROUGH THE CONSTITUTION.

REPORTER: SHOULD THE SITUATION BECOME MORE CRITICAL,  
WOULD TIMES FIXED FIXED FOR WITHDRAWALS BECOME FLESIBLE?

THAWIT: THERE IS NO QUESTION REGARDING THAT. SHOULD THE SITUATION  
MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, THE CONSTITUTION GIVES US THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ACTION. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? UT PLEASE  
DO NOT WRITE THIS UP IN YOUR NEWS REPORTS, OTHERWISE YU WILL HAVE  
NO OPPORTUNITY WHATSOEVER TO MEET ME AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

REPORTER: IS THIS 18-MONTH TIME LIMIT TENTATIVE AT THIS FORST STAGE?

THAWIT: FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES MUST BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN WITHIN  
THAT 18-MONTH TIME LIMIT. IF THEY CANNOT BE WITHDRAWN IN FULL,  
IT WILL BE UP TO PARLIAMENT. IF M.P.S SUBMIT A MOTION FOR A  
DEBATE OF NONCONFIDENCE TO BE HELD IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND AFTER  
WE HAVE GIVEN EXPLANATIONS AND REASONS A VOTE OF NON-CONFIDENCE IS  
PASSED, WE WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN.  
KINTNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO03668  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750378/aaaacsmq.tel  
**Line Count:** 134  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THAI DEFENSE MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE  
**TAGS:** MARR, TH, US  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC PHNOM PENH SAIGON VIENTIANE WASHDC DIA WASHDC CINCPAC HONLULU  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006